

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6493

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MBFR, GW

SUBJ: MBFR: OPPOSITION REACTION TO PUBLICATION OF
OPTION III DETAILS

REF: BONN 02469

1. DR. MANFRED WOERNER, SHADOW CDU/CSU DEFENSE
MINISTER, HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT IN THE OPPOSITION'S
PRESS SERVICE IN REACTION TO THE REPORTS ORIGINATING
IN BUDAPEST ABOUT THE DETAILS OF OPTION III. WOERNER'S
STATEMENT READS AS FOLLOWS:

"ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BUDAPEST
COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN "NEPZABADSAG", THE NATO COUNTRIES
AT THE VIENNA TROOP REDUCTION TALKS HAVE OFFERED NOT
ONLY A REDUCTION OF 1,000 TACTICAL NUCLEAR WARHEADS
IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF 29,000 SO
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US SOLDIERS BUT HAVE ALSO OFFERED THE WITHDRAWAL OF

54 US AIR FORCE F-4 AIRCRAFT AND 36 PERSHING MISSILES
WHICH SERVE AS NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS.

IN CASE THIS INFORMATION IS ACCURATE, THE CDU/CSU
BELIEVES ITSELF TO BE FULLY CONFIRMED IN ITS SKEPTICISM
ABOUT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS. THE EXTEND OF THE WESTERN
PREPAREDNESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS GOES FAR BEYOND THAT
WHICH HAD BEEN SUSPECTED BY THE GERMAN PUBLIC. THE
WEST WOULD THEN HAVE ABANDONED ALL THREE LEVELS OF ITS
FIRM INITIAL POSITION. WHILE THE WEST FOR WELL THOUGHT
OUT REASONS ORIGINALLY WANTED TO MAKE ONLY CONVENTIONAL
GROUND FORCES AN OBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE WEST
HAS NOW INCLUDED NEW
TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THEIR DELIVERY SYSTEMS,
THE AIR FORCE, AND THE SO-CALLED FBS (FORWARD
BASED SYSTEMS) WITH THE F-4S. AND THIS WAS DONE
WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT
EUROPE, AS BEFORE, REMAINS UNDER THE MASSIVE THREAT
FROM SOVIET INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES TO
WHICH THE WEST HAS NOTHING COMPARABLE.

ONE CAN SCARCELY TALK HERE ABOUT A BALANCED OFFER.
IN ANY CASE, THE WEST HAS ENTERED SLIPPERY TERRAIN
WHICH MUST BRING OUR SECURITY INTO DANGER. AND ALL
OF THIS, ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET UNION DURING THE 2-YEAR
NEGOTIATION HAS NOT SHOWN THE SLIGHTEST WILLINGNESS
TO COMPROMISE."

2. COMMENT: IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT WOERNER LEARNED
FOR THE FIRST TIME THE DETAILS OF THE OPTION III OFFER
THROUGH THE REUTERS NEWS ITEM WHICH APPEARS IN THE
FRG (REFTEL). WOERNER WAS NOT PRESENT WHEN FOREIGN
AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS BRIEFED THE BUNDESTAG
DEFENSE COMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN NUCLEAR OFFER
ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER SPECIFIC NUMBERS
WERE DISCUSSED. WOERNER'S REACTION, HOWEVER, NOW
PUTS IN QUESTION THE EARLIER POSITION TAKEN BY THE
OPPOSITION IN WHICH SUPPORT FOR THE NEW NATO OFFER
WAS DECLARED PROVIDED IT WAS A ONE-TIME OFFER AND
WOULD LEAD TO SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE IDEA OF GROUND
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FORCE PARITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE.
CROWLEY

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